REMARKS

Applicant has retained claims 1-210 in the application.

Applicant has added claims 211-225 by this amendment.

Applicant has made changes in individual ones of claims 90-210 to correct informalities noted by applicant's attorney upon a further study of the claims. These changes do not affect the scope of the claims.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made**".
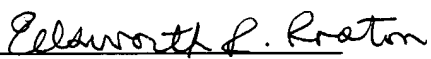
As now written, the claims are believed to be definite and allowable.

Consideration and favorable action on this application are respectfully requested.

Please charge any further fees payable in connection with this Third Preliminary

Amendment to our Deposit Account No. 06-2425.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

90. (Twice Amended) A method of transmitting a message through the internet from a sender to a recipient through a server displaced from the recipient, including the steps at the server of:

receiving the message at the server from the sender,

5   transmitting from the server through the internet to an agent of the recipient the message and the identity and internet address of the server and an indication representing the identity of the sender,

receiving at the server from the agent a handshaking and delivery history of the message from the server to the agent, and

10   transmitting from the server to the sender through the internet the message, a digital signature[, including a digital signature,] of the message and the handshaking and delivery history of the message received by the server from the agent.

92. (Twice Amended) A method as set forth in claim 91 wherein

[the server receives from the sender the information previously transmitted by the server to the sender and wherein]

the server uses the information received by the server from the sender to create

5   a digital signature and compares this digital signature with the digital signature received

by the server from the sender to authenticate the message received by the server from the sender.

115. (Twice Amended) In a method of transmitting a message through the internet from a sender to an agent for a recipient through a server displaced from the recipient, the steps at the server of:

receiving the message from the sender [agent],

5   transmitting to the sender the message from the server to the agent of the recipient,

receiving at the server an indication from the agent that the message has been received at the agent from the server,

providing at the server a digital signature of the message received from the

10   agent, and

transmitting to the sender the message received from the sender [agent] and the digital signature of the message for storage by the sender.

117. (Twice Amended) In a method as set forth in claim 116 the steps at the server of:

receiving from the sender a copy [copies] of the message and the digital signature of the message,

5   generating [a] digital fingerprints [signature on the basis] of the message and the

digital signature [what has been] received from the sender,

comparing the digital fingerprints [signature of the message from the sender and

the digital signature generated at the server], and

authenticating the message on the basis of the results of the comparison.

118.   (Twice Amended) In a method as set forth in claim 115,

providing at the server, at the same time as the provision of the digital signature

of the message at the server, an attachment including the identity of the sender and the

identity and internet address of the server and the identity and internet address of the

5   agent [mail transport agency], all as received by the server from the agent, [and]

generating a digital signature of the attachment, and

transmitting to the sender the attachment including the identity of the sender, the

identity and internet address of the server and the identity and internet address of the

agent and the digital signature of the attachment, all as received by the server from the

10   agent, at the same time as the transmission of the message, and the digital signature of

the message, to the sender.

120.   (Twice Amended) In a method as set forth in claim 119, the steps at the

server of:

receiving from the sender copies of the message and the attachment of the

15   message and the digital signatures of the message and the attachment,

generating digital fingerprints [signatures] of the message and the digital

signature of the message [the attachment from the message] and the attachment and

the digital signature of the attachment [received by the server from the sender], and

[respectively] comparing the [received] digital fingerprints [signatures] of the

20   message and the digital signature of the message and comparing the digital fingerprints

of the attachment and the digital signature of the attachment [and the attachment and

the digital signatures generated at the server of the message and the attachment on the

basis of what has been received from the sender] to authenticate the message and the

attachment [on the basis of this comparison].

121.   In a method as set forth in claim 119, the steps at the server of

the attachment constituting a first attachment,

receiving at the server from the agent, at the same time as the reception of the

message and the attachment of the message from the agent, a second attachment

5   including the identity of the sender and the identity and internet address of the server

-4-

and the identity and internet address of the agent, all as received by the server from the

agent,

> generating a digital signature of the second attachment, and

> transmitting to the sender the second attachment including the identity of the

10 sender, the identity and internet address of the server, and the identity and internet

address of the agent and a digital signature of the second attachment, all as received

by the server from the agent, at the same time as the transmission to the sender of the

message and the first attachment and the digital signatures of the message and of the

first attachment to the sender.

122.   (Twice Amended) A method of transmitting a message through the internet

from a sender to an agent for a recipient through a server displaced from the agent,

including the steps of

> providing the message from the sender at the server,

5 transmitting to the agent the message and the identity of the sender and the

identity and the internet address of the server,

> providing at the agent an attachment including [indication of] the status of the

reception at the agent of the transmittal from the server to the agent of the message

and the identity of the sender and the identity and internet address of the server,

10   transmitting to the server from the agent the message [and the identity and

internet address of the agent] and the <u>attachment including</u> the status of the reception

at the agent of the message and the identity of the sender and the identity and internet

address of the server <u>and the identity and internet address of the agent</u>, and

providing at the server a digital signature of <u>the message and a digital signature</u>

15   <u>of the attachment</u> [what has been received by the server from the agent].

128.   (Twice Amended) A method as set forth in claim 122 wherein

the digital signature of the message includes a digital digest of the message and

an encryption of the digital digest,

the agent includes the date and time of the transmission by the agent to the

5   server, and

the server transmits to the sender the message and the digital signature of the

message and the <u>attachment including the</u> identity of the sender and the identity and

internet address of the server and the identity and internet address of the agent and the

delivery status of the message <u>and the date and time of the transmission by the agent</u>

10   <u>to the server</u>, and

the delivery status of the message at the agent includes at least one of the

following: (a) DELIVERED, (b) RELAYED, (c) DELIVERED-AND-WAITING FOR

DELIVERY STATUS NOTIFICATION (DSN), (d) DELIVERED-TO-MAILBOX, and (e)

FAILED, UNDELIVERABLE.

130.   (Twice Amended) A method of transmitting a message through the

internet from a sender to an agent for a recipient through a server displaced from the

agent, including the steps at the server of:

providing at the server [a digital fingerprint of] the message and the identity of the

5   sender and the identity and internet address of the server,

transmitting to the agent the message and the identity of the sender and the

identity and internet address of the server,

receiving from the agent [the message and] the identity of the sender and the

identity and internet address of the server and the identity and internet address of the

10   agent and an indication of the status of the reception of the message at the agent, and

transmitting to the sender the message and the information received by the

server from the agent relating to the message.

136.   (Twice Amended) A method as set forth in claim 134 wherein

the server transmits to the sender the identity of the sender and the identity and

15   internet address of the server at the same time that it transmits the message to the

sender and wherein

the sender transmits to the server what it has received from the server and

wherein

the server authenticates the message on the basis of what it has received from

20   the sender.

137.   (Twice Amended) A method as set forth in claim 134 wherein

the server transmits to the sender the identity and internet address of the agent

and the status of the reception of the message, all as received by the server from the

agent, and the digital signature of the message and wherein

5   the sender sends to the server, at the time that the sender wishes to have the

message authenticated, what it has received from the server [sender] and wherein

the server authenticates the message on the basis of what it has received from

the sender after the sender wishes to have the message authenticated.

138.   (Twice Amended) A method as set forth in claim 136 wherein

the server does not store the message after it transmits the message to the

sender and wherein

the server transmits to the sender the message and the identity and internet

5   address of the agent and the status of the reception of the message received by the

agent, all as received by the server from the agent, and the digital signature of the

message, and wherein

the sender transmits to the server what it has received from the server and

wherein

10   the server authenticates the message [solely] on the basis of what it has received

from the sender after the sender desires to authenticate the message.

139.   A method of authenticating a message transmitted through the internet

from a sender to a recipient through a server displaced from the recipient, including the

steps at the server of:

transmitting to the sender the message and a digital signature of the message,

5   and a status of the reception of the message by an agent for the recipient,

receiving from the sender the message, the digital signature of the message and

the status of the reception of the message by the agent,

producing [a] digital fingerprints [signature] of the message and the digital

signature [information] received from the sender, and

10   comparing the digital fingerprints [signature] of the message [produced from the

information received from the sender] and the digital signature of the message

[generated by the server from the sender] to authenticate the message transmitted from

the sender to the server.

141.   (Twice Amended) A method as set forth in claim 139 wherein

15   the server provides a digital signature from an attachment including [, in

determining the digital signature,] the identity of the sender and the identity and the

internet address of the server, and wherein

the server transmits to the sender the attachment including the identity of the

sender and the identity and internet address of the server, all as transmitted by the

20   agent to the server, and the digital signature of the attachment and wherein

the server receives from the sender the attachment including the identity and

internet address of the server and the digital signature of the attachment and wherein

the server generates digital fingerprints of the attachment, and the digital

signature of the attachment, received by the server [includes the identity of the sender

25   and the identity and internet address of the server in producing the digital signature of

the information] from the sender and wherein

the server compares the digital fingerprints [signature from the sender and the

digital signature generated by the server from the information received by the server

from the sender] to authenticate the message transmitted by the sender to the server.

142.   (Twice Amended) A method of authenticating a message transmitted

through the internet from a sender to an agent for a recipient through a server displaced

from the agent, including the steps of:

generating a digital signature at the server of the message,

5   transmitting to the sender the message and the [a] digital signature of the

message and an attachment including a status of a reception by the [an] agent for the

recipient of the message and a digital signature of the attachment,

receiving at the server the information transmitted by the server [sender] to the

sender [server],

10   generating [a] digital fingerprints [signature] of the message and the attachments

[information] received by the server and digital fingerprints of the digital signatures of

the message and the attachment, [and]

comparing the digital fingerprints [signature] generated by the server from the

message [information] received by the server from the sender and the digital signature

15   of the message received [transmitted] by the server from [sender to] the sender [server]

to authenticate the message transmitted from the sender to the server, and

comparing the digital fingerprints generated by the server from the attachment

received by the server from the sender and the digital signature of the

attachment received by the server from the sender to authenticate the

20   attachment transmitted from the sender to the server.

-11-

145.   (Twice Amended) A method of transmitting a message through the internet from a sender to an agent for a recipient through a server displaced from the agent, including the steps at the server of,

receiving the message from the sender,

25   transmitting to the agent the message and a return address identifying the sender and the <u>server</u> [recipient],

receiving from the agent [the message and] the identity of the sender and the <u>server</u> [recipient], and

identifying the message transmitted from the server to the agent [and received

30   by the server from the agent] and <u>the identity of</u> [identifying the message,] the sender and the <u>server as received by the server from the</u> recipient.

156.   (Twice Amended) A method of transmitting a message through the internet from a sender to an agent for a recipient through a server displaced from the recipient, including the steps at the agent of:

receiving from the server through the internet the message and the identity of the

5   sender and the identity and internet address of the server, and

providing for a transmittal to the server through the internet <u>from the agent of</u> [the message and] the identity of the sender and the identity and internet address of the sender and the identity and internet address of the agent.

-12-

158.   (Twice Amended) A method as set forth in claim 156, including the step

10   at the agent of:

indicating in the transmittal from the agent to the server that the message and

[the digital signature, of the message and[ ]] the identity of the sender and the identity

and internet address of the server have been sent [by the agent] to another agent

before [for] delivery to the agent for the recipient.

164.   (Twice Amended) A method as set forth in claim 159, including the step

of:

including in the transactions between the first server and the destination server

via the selected protocol the status of the delivery of the message to the destination

5   server from the first server [recipient].

166.   (Twice Amended) In a method of verifying at a first server a delivery of an

electronic message to a destination server for a recipient, the steps of:

transmitting the electronic message from the first server to the destination server

through a transaction between the first server and the destination server via a protocol

5   selected from the group consisting of an SMTP protocol and an ESMTP protocol, [and]

receiving at the first server from the destination server the transactions between

the first server and the destination server via the selected one of the protocols, and

transmitting from the first server to the sender the message and the transactions

between the first server and the destination server in the selected one of the protocols.

168.   (Twice Amended) In a method as set forth in claim 166, the step of:

retaining [releasing] the message at the first server after the transmission of the

message in the selected one of the protocols by the first server to the destination

server.

170.   (Twice Amended) In a method as set forth in claim 169, the steps of:

transmitting from the first server to the sender a copy of the message after [at the

time] of the transmission to the sender of the transaction between the first server and

the destination server in the selected one of the protocols, and

5   releasing the message at the first server after the transmission of the copy of the

message in the selected one of the protocols by the first server to the sender

[destination server].

171.   (Twice Amended) In a method as set forth in claim 170, the step of:

transmitting between the first server and the destination server the identity of the

sender, the identity and address of the first server and the identity and address of the

destination server and the time of the receipt of the message by the first server and [at]

-14-

5   the time of the transmission [of the message from] <u>to</u> the first server from the

destination server of the identity of [to] the sender<u>, the identity and address of the first

server and the identity and address of the destination server.</u>

172.   (Amended) In a method as set forth in claim 166, the step of:

receiving at the first server <u>from the destination server</u> a delivery status

notification indicating the status of the delivery of the message from the first server to

the destination server and the time of the transmission of the delivery status notification

5   by the destination server to the first server.

173.   (Twice Amended) In a method of verifying at a first server a message

received by the first server from a sender and transmitted by the first server to a

destination server for a recipient, the steps of:

receiving at the first server from the <u>destination server an attachment including</u>

5   [sender] transactions between the first server and the destination server relating to the

message from the sender, the transactions between the first server and the destination

server being provided via a protocol selected from the group consisting of an SMTP

protocol and an ESMTP protocol,

transmitting from the first server to the sender the message and the attachment

10   including the transactions between the first server and the destination server via the

selected one of the SMTP protocol and the ESMTP protocol,

transmitting from the sender to the first server the message and the attachment

including the transactions in the selected one of the protocols, and

authenticating the message on the basis of the message and the attachment

15   including the transactions transmitted from the sender to the first server in the selected

one of the protocols.

174.   (Twice Amended) In a method as set forth in claim 173, the step of:

authenticating the message transmitted from the sender to the first server when

the comparison is identical [available].

175.   (Twice Amended) In a method as set forth in claim 170, the step of:

removing the message from the first server when the first server transmits to the

sender the message and an attachment including the transactions between the first

server and the destination server via the selected one of the SMTP protocol and the

5   ESMTP protocol.

176.   (Twice Amended) In a method as set forth in claim 173, the steps of:

receiving at the first server <u>from the destination server</u> the indication of the

identity of the sender, the identity and address of the first server and the identity and

address of the destination server via the protocol selected from the group consisting of

10   the SMTP protocol and the ESMTP protocol, and

transmitting from the first server to the sender the identity of the sender, the

identity and address of the first server and the identity and address of the destination

server at the time of the transmission from the first server to the sender of the message

and the transaction between the first server and the destination server via the protocol

15   selected from the group consisting of the SMTP protocol and the ESMTP protocol.

177.   (Twice Amended) In a method as set forth in claim 175, the steps of

providing at the first server a digital signature of the message and <u>the attachment</u>

<u>including</u> the transactions between the first server and the destination server relating to

the message from the sender, [the transactions between the first server and the

5   destination server being provided via a protocol selected from the group consisting of

an SMTP protocol and an ESMTP protocol,] <u>and</u>

transmitting from the first server to the sender the message and the digital

signature of the message and <u>the attachment including</u> the transactions between the

first server and the destination server via the selected one of the SMTP protocol and

10   the ESMTP protocol[,] <u>and the digital signature of the attachment</u>

[transmitting the message from the first server to the sender and the digital

signature of the message at the same time that the first server transmits to the sender

the transactions between the first server and the destination server via the selected one

of the SMTP protocol and the ESMTP protocol].

179.   (Twice Amended) A method of verifying delivery at a first server of an

electronic message to a destination server for a recipient, including the steps of:

receiving at the first server an electronic message from a message sender for

routing to the destination server,

5   establishing at the first server a communication with the destination server,

transmitting from the first server the electronic message to the destination server

with a protocol transaction via a protocol selected from a group consisting of an SMTP

protocol and an ESMTP protocol,

<u>receiving</u> [recording] at the first server the protocol transactions between the first

10   server and the destination server relating to the message, <u>and</u>

transmitting from the first server to the sender the message and <u>at least a</u>

<u>particular portion of</u> the protocol transactions between the first server and the

destination server[,

transmitting from the sender to the first server the message and the protocol

15   transaction<u>s</u> previously transmitted from the first server to the sender, and

authenticating the message at the first server on the basis of the message and

the protocol transactions transmitted from the sender to the first server].

180.   (Twice Amended) A method as set forth in claim <u>179</u> [178] wherein

the message and the at least particular portion of the transactions provided in the

selected one of the protocols to the sender are [thereafter] provided by the sender to

the first server, and

5   the message is authenticated by the first server on the basis of the message and

the at least particular portion of the transactions from the sender to the first server.

181.   (Twice Amended) A method as set forth in claim 178 wherein

a digital signature is made of the message at the first server and wherein

the digital signature is transmitted from the first server to the sender with the

message and the <u>at least particular portion of the</u> protocol transactions between the first

5   server and the destination server and wherein

the digital signature is thereafter provided by the sender to the first server with

the <u>message and the</u> at least particular portion of the transactions in the selected

protocol.

182.   (Twice Amended) A method as set forth in claim 180 [181] wherein

10   a digital signature of the message and a digital signature of the transactions

provided in the selected protocol are produced at the first server and are transmitted to

the sender with the message and the transactions provided in the selected protocol and

wherein

the digital signatures and the message and [the digital signature and] the at least

15   particular portion[s] of the transactions provided in the selected protocol to the sender

are thereafter provided by the sender to the first server and wherein

[a] digital fingerprints [signature] are [is] produced at the first server from [on the

basis of] the message and the digital signature of the message [the at least particular

portion provided in the selected protocol] provided by the sender to the first server and

20   wherein

the message is authenticated at the first server by establishing an identity

between the digital fingerprints [signature] produced at the first server [and the digital

signature received by the first server from the sender].

183.   (Twice Amended) A method of verifying at a first server the delivery of an

electronic message from the first server to a destination server for a destination address

including the steps of:

receiving at the first server an electronic message from a message sender for

5   routing to the destination server,

transmitting from the first server to the destination server [for the destination

address] the electronic message [and transactions between the first server and the

destination server relating to the electronic message via a protocol selected from the

group consisting of an SMTP protocol and an ESMTP protocol],

10   <u>receiving</u> [recording] at the first server the transactions between the first server

and the destination server via the protocol selected from the group consisting of the

SMTP protocol and the ESMTP protocol,

transmitting from the first server to the sender the message and the transactions

between the first server and the destination server in the selected one of the protocols,

15   receiving at the first server from the sender the messages <u>and</u> [an] the

transactions between the first server and the destination server in the selected one of

the protocols, and

authenticating the message at the first server on the basis of the message

received by the first server from the sender and the transactions received by the first

20   server from the sender.

184.   (Amended) A method as set forth in claim 122, including the step of:

the transactions between the first server and the destination server constituting

an attachment,

providing digital signatures at the first server of the message and the attachment,

25   and

transmitting from the first server to the sender the message and the attachment

[what has been received at the server from the agent] and the digital signatures of the

message and the attachment [what has been received by the server from the agent].

185.   (Amended) A method as set forth in claim 184, including the step of:

transmitting to the server from the sender what has been received at the sender

from the server, this transmission occurring when the sender wishes to authenticate the

message, and

5   authenticating the message at the first server on the basis of the message and

the attachment and the digital signatures of the message and the attachment, all as

received by the server from the sender [what has been transmitted from the sender to

the server at the time that the sender wishes to authenticate the massage].

187. (Amended) A method as set forth in claim 163, including the steps of:

10   transmitting from the sender to the first server the information transmitted from the first server to the sender, and

authenticating the electronic message on the basis of the information transmitted from the sender to the first server representing the transactions between the first server and the destination address via the selected protocol.

188. A method as set forth in claim 163, the steps of:

providing a digital signature of the message and a digital signature of an attachment including the transactions between the first server and the destination server via the selected protocol, and

5   transmitting the digital signature of the message and the digital signature of the attachment from the first server to the sender at the same time that the message and the attachment [transactions between the first server and the destination server] are transmitted from the first server to the sender.

189. (Amended) A method as set forth in claim 172, the steps of:

generating at the first server a digital signature [solely on the basis] of the message and a digital signature of the attachment including the transactions transmitted from the sender to the first server, and

5   transmitting from the first server to the sender the message and the attachment

and the digital signatures of the message and the attachment.

[comparing at the first server the digital signature transmitted from the sender to

the first server ad the digital signature generated at the first server on the basis of the

transmission from the sender] to authenticate the message transmitted from the sender

10   to the first server].

190.   (Amended) A method as set forth in claim 173, including the steps of:

providing a digital signature of the message and a digital signature of the

attachment including the transactions between the first server and the destination

server via the selected protocol, and

5   transmitting the digital signatures from the first server to the sender at the same

time as the transmission from the first server to the sender of the message and the

attachment including the transactions via the selected protocol.

191.   (Amended) A method as set forth in claim 189, the steps of:

transmitting from the sender to the first server the message and the digital

signature of the message and the attachment and the digital signature of the

attachment including the transactions between the first server and the destination

5   server in the selected one of the protocols [at the same time as the transmission from

the sender to the first server of the message and the transactions between the first

server and the destination server in the selected one of the protocols], and

authenticating the message on the basis of the digital signatures and the

message and the attachment [transactions] transmitted between the sender and the

10   first server in the selected one of the protocols.

193.   (Amended) A method as set forth in claim 192, wherein

the server prepares a digital signature of the message and a digital signature of

an attachment including an identification of the sender and an identification and

address of the server and an identification and address of the recipient and a digital

5   signature of the attachment and wherein

the server transmits to the sender the message and the digital signature of the

message and the attachment including the identification of the sender and the

identification and address of the server and the identification and address of the

recipient and the digital signature of the attachment and wherein

10   the server receives from the sender the message and the digital signature of the

message [from the sender] and the attachment and the digital signature of the

attachment and wherein

the server authenticates the message on the basis of the message and the

digital signature of the message and the attachment and the digital signature of the

15   attachment all as received by the server from the sender.

194.   (Amended) A method as set forth in claim 192 wherein

the server prepares a digital signature of the message and an attachment

including a selected one of the SMPT and ESMPT protocols involved in the

transmission of the message from the server to the recipient and a digital signature of

5   the attachment and wherein

the server transmits to the sender the message and the digital signature of the

message and the attachment including the selected one of the SMPT and ESMPT

protocols and the digital signature of the attachment and wherein

the server receives from the sender the message and the digital signature of the

10   message and the attachment and the digital signature of the attachment [from the

sender] and wherein

the server authenticates the message on the basis of the message and the

digital signature of the message received by the server from the sender.

195.   (Amended) A method as set forth in claim 192 wherein

15   the server authenticates the message by preparing a digital <u>fingerprints</u>

[signature] of the message <u>and a digital fingerprint of the digital signature</u> and by

comparing the prepared digital <u>fingerprints</u> [signature] <u>of the message</u> and the

[received] digital signature <u>of the message</u> and confirming that they are identical.

196.   (Amended) A method as set forth in claim <u>194</u> [192] wherein

the server authenticates the message by preparing a digital <u>fingerprint</u> [signature]

of the message and <u>a digital fingerprint of the attachment including</u> the identification of

the sender and the identification and address of the server and the identification and

5   address of the recipient and by comparing the prepared digital <u>fingerprints</u> [signature] <u>of</u>

<u>the message</u> and the [received] digital signature<u> of the message</u> and confirming that

they are identical <u>and by comparing the prepared digital fingerprints of the attachment</u>

<u>and the digital signature of the attachment and confirming that they are identical</u>.

197.   (Amended) A method as set forth in claim 194 wherein

the server authenticates the <u>attachment</u> [message] by preparing a digital

<u>fingerprint</u> [signature] of the <u>attachment</u> [message] and <u>a digital fingerprint of the digital</u>

<u>signature of the attachment including</u> the selected one of the SMPT and ESMPT

-27-

5   protocols and by comparing the [prepared] digital <u>fingerprints</u> [signature and the

received digital signature] and confirming that they are identical.

198.   (Amended) A method as set forth in claim <u>194</u> [192] wherein

the server transmits the message and <u>the attachment and</u> the digital signature<u>s</u>

<u>of the message and the attachment</u> to the sender without retaining a copy of the

message and the <u>attachment and the digital signatures of the message and the</u>

5   <u>attachment</u> [digital signature].

199.   (Amended) A method as set forth in claim <u>194</u> [196] wherein

the server transmits to the sender the message and <u>the attachment and</u> the

digital signature<u>s of the message and of the attachment</u> and the identification of the

sender and the identification and address of the server and the identification and

address of the recipient without retaining any of this information.

200.   (Amended) A method as set forth in claim 197 wherein

the server transmits to the sender the message and the digital signature <u>of the</u>

<u>message and the attachment including</u> [and] the selected one of the SMPT and ESMPT

protocols <u>and the digital signature of the attachment</u> without retaining any of this

5   information.

20l.   (Amended) A method of transmitting a message through the internet from

a sender to a recipient through a server displaced from the recipient, including the steps

at the server of:

transmitting to the recipient the message and <u>an attachment including</u> an

10   identification of the sender and an identification and address of the server and an

identification and address of the recipient,

receiving from the recipient [the message and] the identification of the

sender and an identification and address of the server and an identification and address

of the recipient, and

15   transmitting to the sender the message and <u>the attachment including</u> the

identification of the sender and the identification and address of the server and the

identification and address of the recipient.

202.   (Amended) A method as set forth in claim 201 wherein

the server prepares a digital signature of the message and transmits the digital

signature <u>of the message</u> to the sender with the message.

203.   (Amended) A method as set forth in claim 202 wherein

the server does not retain a copy of the message and the digital signature of the

message when it transmits the message and the digital signature of the message to the

sender.

204.   (Amended) A method as set forth in claim 202 wherein

the server prepares a digital signature of the attachment and transmits

this digital signature of the attachment to the sender at the same time that it transmits

the attachment to the sender and wherein

the sender transmits to the server the message and the digital signature

of the message and the attachment and the digital signature of the attachment when

the sender desires to obtain an authentication of the message and the attachment [the

server prepares a digital signature of the message, the identification of the sender, the

identification and address of the server and the identification of the recipient and

transmits the digital signature to the sender with the message].

205.   (Amended) A method as set forth in claim 204 wherein

the server provides an authentication of the message and the attachment and

the digital signatures of the message and the attachment, all as received by the server

from the sender [does not retain a copy of the message and the digital signature when

5   it transmits the message and the digital signature to the sender, and

the server prepares a digital signature of the message and of the

identification of the sender and the identification and address of the server and the

identification of the recipient and transmits the digital signature to the sender with the

message].

206.   (Amended) A method of transmitting a message through the internet from

a sender to a recipient through a server displaced from the recipient, including the steps

at the server of:

transmitting to the recipient the message and an identification of the sender and

5   a protocol selected from a group consisting of SMPT and ESMPT protocols.

receiving from the recipient [the message and] the selected one of the protocols,

and

transmitting to the sender the message and the selected one of the protocols.

208.   (Amended) A method as set forth in claim 206, including the step of:

not retaining at the server a copy of the message and the digital signature of the

message when the server transmits the message and the digital signature of the

message to the sender.

209.   (Amended) A method as set forth in claim 206, including the step of:

preparing at the server a digital signature of the message and <u>a digital signature</u>

of the selected one of the protocols, and

transmitting the digital signatur<u>e</u>s from the server to the sender with the message

5   <u>and the selected one of the protocols</u>.

210.   (Amended) A method as set forth in claim 207, including the steps of:

<u>preparing at the server a digital signature of the [message and] of the selected</u>

<u>one of the protocols, and</u>

<u>transmitting the digital signature of the message from the server to the sender</u>

5   <u>with the message and the digital signature of the selected one of the protocols with the</u>

<u>protocol, and</u>

not retaining at the server a copy of the message and the digital signature <u>of the</u>

<u>message and the selected one of the protocols and the digital signature of the selected</u>

<u>one of the protocols</u> when the server transmits the message and the digital signature <u>of</u>

10   <u>the message and the selected one of the protocols and the digital signature of the</u>

<u>selected one of the protocols</u> to the sender[, and]

[preparing at the server a digital signature of the message and of the selected

one of the protocols, and

transmitting the digital signature from the server to the sender with the message].